

A GREAT BATTLE IS AT HAND.

Sampson Will Attack the Spanish Fleet

NOW AT MARTINIQUE

Orders Sent Him from Washington to Destroy It.

THE FLYING SQUADRON SAILS.

Commodore Schley Has-tens to Aid Sampson.

WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.

Not More Than That Space Will Elapse

Before the Two Powerful Fleets

Try Conclusions-The Battle Will

Probably Take Place at Mar-

tinique, or Midway Be-

tween That Place and

Porto Rico-Much

Excitement at

the Navy De-

partment

WASHINGTON, May 12.-It was almost

unanimously decided at a brief Cabinet

meeting this morning to order Admiral

Sampson to go to the Spanish fleet and

attack it at once. Secretary Long went

from the Cabinet meeting and immedi-

ately dispatched orders to Admiral Sam-

pson.

The greatest naval battle of a century

is almost sure to result in the next forty-

eight hours. The Spaniards will have

the fight forced upon them if they do not

seek it themselves. If they hunt for the

fight the contest will take place before

this time to-morrow. If they permit the

American fleet to go to them the fight

may be delayed forty-eight hours.

THE CABINET'S DECISION.

The Cabinet met in regular session at

11 o'clock. Secretary Long took to the

White House positive official dispatches

that the Spanish fleet which left Cape

Verde, was then at Port de France, Mar-

tinique. The Cabinet instantly recognized

the great importance of this news and

lost no time in coming to the conclusion

that the Spaniards must be met and de-

feated. It was decided not to allow

Sampon to remain at San Juan. In the

hope that the Spaniards would go to him.



INDOOR DIVERSION



THE MORNING TALK.

SKETCHES OF SCENES AT CAMP LEE YESTERDAY.

ONE COMPANY JOINS CAMP LEE.

A Fine Body of Men From Wytheville Arrived.

CAPTAIN WM. R. KENT

Will Be Their Commander Doing the War With Spain.

COLONEL J. C. BAKER IN CHARGE.

Strict Discipline Will Hereafter Be Preserved in Camp-The Public On-ly to Be Admitted Between Four and Six o'Clock in the After-noon-The First Dress Pa-rade-Camp Gossip.

Only one military company arrived in Camp Lee yesterday and it was rather late when they reached the city. They are an entirely new company, just organized in Wytheville with the following officers: Captain, William P. Kent; First Lieutenant, Sidney P. Moore; Second Lieutenant, Kent Spiller. They have ninety-two men in ranks with two or three to follow this evening. They are a fine looking body of men and will no doubt make splendid soldiers.

The train rolled into the Union Depot on schedule time at 8:30 o'clock and the company from the southwest was met by Col. Coulting, of the Governor's staff, who directed them to the camp. A detail from the First Regiment in command of Second Lieutenant Hartman of Company C, First Regiment Infantry, was on hand and escorted the new soldiers to the camp where they were greeted by Governor Tyler and Adjutant General Nalle.

They were then assigned to quarters in the auditorium and soon retired after they had been provided with supper.

THE BAND PLAYED.

The Wytheville Company reached the Fair Grounds shortly after the military concert given there by the First Regiment Band, under the direction of the Richmond Traction Company. The announcement had been made early in the day, that the concert would take place in the auditorium and that the galleries in the building would be set aside for the general public. This, however, could not be done, since the public had been excluded from entering the grounds except between the hours of 4 and 6 o'clock by order of Col. J. C. Baker, and the building was entirely occupied by the troops.

The band, therefore, took its stand under the shed at the main entrance on Broad street, and the soldiers gathered around the musicians on the inside of the gate, while the public took position outside of the gate.

Lieutenant Starks, United States Army, the muster-in officer of the camp, was kept busy until a late hour, inasmuch as he mustered in Company C, Second Regiment Infantry, Captain E. W. Sullivan, commanding at 8:30 o'clock last evening, company P, Fourth Regiment Infantry, of Suffolk, was ordered last evening to report at the camp to-day. The company will leave Suffolk this morning at 8:25 o'clock in command of Captain C. H. Causey, Jr., and will reach here shortly by the Norfolk and Western railroad.

MUST TO THE MARK.

Military discipline will hereafter be strictly enforced at Camp Lee. Colonel J. C. Baker, the commandant of the Second Regiment and Senior Colonel of the Virginia troops, who arrived here Thursday evening, reached the fair grounds early yesterday morning and at once took charge of the camp. Regular guard duty about the camp and the grounds was promptly established and beginning with to-day the regular calls beginning with reveille and ending with taps will be sounded daily.

Later in the day the sentinels were posted on the outskirts of the Fair Grounds, but when visitors began to come out by hundreds and in fact by thousands, the sentinels were withdrawn and the few that had their posts about the camp, had instructions to allow the public to pass by. Colonel Baker having issued an order under which the public is to be admitted between the hours of 4 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

This interest in the various features of camp life seems to be on the increase among the people of Richmond, for at least 3,000 people visited there during the afternoon. The Lee Rifles, of Norfolk, Company A, Fourth Regiment, had another instructive drill just west of the camp, which was witnessed by as many people as could get a glimpse at it. Second Lieutenant Burrow was in command.

A DOG FIGHT.

During the drill a fight took place in close vicinity to the soldiers, which formed a sort of a side show for the crowd. Among those who were attracted to see the combat between the belligerent canines were a number of men from the Lynchburg company, who rushed to the scene, although their company was drawn up in line at the time in the company street preparatory to being mustered into the United States reserve. They did not stay very long, however, but were

BLOOD THICKER THAN IS WATER.

Hon. Jos. Chamberlain's Significant Address.

A LASTING ALLIANCE.

Stars and Stripes and Union Jack Should Wave Together.

EVEN WAR CHEAPLY BOUGHT

Should It Result in an Alliance of England and America-The Sentiments of the Secretary Were Cheered Heartily by the English Audience Which He Addressed.

LONDON, May 12.-The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, made an important speech on public affairs at Birmingham this evening.

Mr. Chamberlain after deprecating the constant assertions in certain quarters that Lord Salisbury was "discredited" and the government "weak and vacillating," said:

COURTESY NOT WEAKNESS.

"If foreign countries believe and act upon those statements, they will find themselves much mistaken and that courteous diplomacy and graceful concessions are not incompatible with a firm maintenance of the country's honor and interests."

Then declaring that he intended to make a "plain statement of facts, unfettered by the mysteries and reticences of the diplomacy of half a century ago, which without revealing secret negotiations, should be 'understood' of the people."

Mr. Chamberlain said he would accept the judgment of the people as willingly as that of the wisest diplomat in the world.

Referring to the policy of strict isolation that England has pursued since the Crimean war, he remarked that this has been "perfectly justifiable," he added, "the time has arrived when Great Britain may be confronted by a combination of powers and our first duty, therefore, is to draw all parts of the empire into close unity, and our next to maintain the bonds of permanent unity with our kinsmen across the Atlantic." (Loud cheers.)

ANGLO-SAXON ALLIANCE.

"There is a powerful and generous nation," said Mr. Chamberlain, "speaking our language, bred of our race, and having identical interests with ours. I would go so far as to say that, terrible as war may be, even war itself would be cheaply purchased if in a great and noble cause the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack should wave together over an Anglo-Saxon alliance." (Prolonged cheers.)

It was one of the most satisfactory results of Lord Salisbury's policy that at the present time these two great nations understood each other better than they ever had done, since, over a century ago, they were separated by the blunder of the British government."

BAGLEY'S PRESENTIMENT.

He Had Premonition of Danger That Haunted Him.

KEY WEST, FLA., May 12.-The death of Ensign Bagley recalls a story written after an interview with him on April 25th, which was suppressed by the censor, who feared that it might cause Bagley's friends to feel alarmed.

From the Herald's dispatch boat, Albert F. Dewey, I had boarded the Winslow to take papers and news bulletins to Lieutenant Bernard. After talking for some minutes with him I turned to Ensign Bagley with some remark about the troubles which befell his fellow executive officers of the torpedo boat fleet. His rejoinder was:

"Yes, I hear that Boyd (for the torpedo boat Cushing) is in trouble through no fault of his own. The puts it right up to me. I'm sorry about Boyd, for I am sure that the accident to the Cushing was not due to his carelessness. Now, I suppose you will say that I am superstitious, but I must admit that the fatalities which have pursued us have given me some moments of sombre thought."

"There was poor Breckinridge, my classmate, executive officer of the Cushing, who was swept overboard between Key West and Havana and drowned. Then Eastwick, executive officer of Boyd, was knocked overboard in a collision with a schooner, had his chest caved in and was all but drowned. He is now slowly recovering. Baldwin, executive officer of the Cushing, successor of Breckinridge and predecessor of Boyd, took his turn next. He was knocked down an open hatchway and had his ribs broken. He will not be out of the hospital until the war is over."

"There they are, the four 'B's'-Breckinridge, Baldwin, Boyd, and Bagley. I have never been superstitious, but for a week I have had mysterious intuitions that I am not to escape. I will make the list complete of that I am certain. I only hope that my trouble will not be serious enough to take me out of the fight."

THE SAN JUAN BOMBARDMENT.

Complete Story of Admiral Sampson's Attack.

THREE-HOURS' FIGHT.

Two Americans Killed and Several Wounded.

THE SQUADRON UNINJURED.

Admiral Sampson Poured a Storm of Shot and Shell Into the Batteries, But It Was Impossible to Ascertain the Damage Done-The Town of San Juan Suffered Much Injury.

ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP IOWA, OF SAN JUAN DE PORTO RICO, May 12.-Via St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, May 12.-The forts of San Juan de Porto Rico, were bombarded by part of Rear-Admiral Sampson's fleet this morning. The enemy's loss is believed to be heavy. The American loss is two killed and seven injured.

After three hours' firing the Admiral withdrew the fleet, and heading for Key West, he said:

"I am satisfied with the morning's work. I could have taken San Juan; but I have no force to hold it. I only wanted to administer punishment. This has been done. I came for the Spanish fleet, and not for San Juan."

KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The killed are: Seaman Frank Widmark, of the New York. Gunner's mate of the Amphitrite. The latter died from the effects of the extreme heat.

Of the injured men three were on board the Iowa and four on the New York. The names of those slightly injured on the Iowa are:

Seaman Mitchell. Private Marine Merkle. Apprentice Hill.

The injured on the New York are: Seaman Samuel Feltman, seriously. Seaman Michael Murphy. Two other enlisted men slightly injured.

All the above named were injured by the bursting of a shell on the New York. This is a complete list of the killed and wounded.

The American ships were uninjured. The engagement began at 5:15 A. M. and ended at 8:15 A. M.

The enemy's batteries were not silenced. The town in rear of the fortifications probably suffered.

ENEMY'S POOR MARKSMANSHIP.

The ships taking part in the action were the Iowa, Indiana, New York, Terror, Amphitrite, Detroit, Montgomery, Wampatuck and Porter. The enemy's firing was heavy but wild and the Iowa and New York were probably the only ships hit. The enemy went right up under the big guns in column delivering broadsides and then returned. The line passed thrice in front of the forts, pouring tons of steel on shore.

It is impossible to judge the amount of damage done to the buildings and forts. They appeared to be riddled with shot, but the Spaniards were plucky. The after turret of the Amphitrite got out of order temporarily during the engagement, but she banged away with her forward guns. After the first passage before the forts the Detroit and the Montgomery retired, their guns being too small to do much damage. The Porter and Wampatuck also stayed out of range.

The smoke hung over everything, spoiling the aim of the gunners and making it impossible to tell where our shots struck. The officers and men of all the ships behaved with coolness and bravery. The shots flew thick and fast over our ships.

INJURED BY SPLINTERS.

The men of the Iowa were injured by splinters thrown by an eight-inch shell which came through a boat into the superstructure and scattered fragments in all directions. The shot's course was finally ended on an iron plate an inch thick. Merkle (Murtle) was struck in the arm and may lose it. All were hurt by splinters and a fire was started in the boat, but was quickly extinguished. The battery on the eastward arm of the harbor, was the principal point of attack.

Rear Admiral Sampson and Captain Evans were on the lower bridge of the Iowa and had a narrow escape from splinters, which injured three men. The Iowa was hit eight times, but the shells made no impression on her armor. The weather was fine, but the heavy smoke made accurate aim difficult. The broadsides from the Iowa and Indiana rumbled in the hills ashore for five minutes after they were delivered. Clouds of dust showed where they struck.

At 3 o'clock in the morning all hands were called on the Iowa, a few final touches in clearing ship were made, and the "General quarters" sounded. The men were eager for the fight.

BOMBARDMENT BEGUN.

The tug Wampatuck went ahead and

anchored, her small boat to the westward showing ten fathoms, but there was not a sign of life from the fort, which stood boldly against the sky on the eastern hills hiding the town.

The Detroit steamed far to the eastward, opposite Valien. The Iowa headed straight for the shore. Suddenly her helm flew over, bringing the starboard battery to bear on the fortifications.

At 5:15 A. M. the Iowa's forward 12-inch guns thundered out at the sleeping hills and for fourteen minutes she poured starboard broadsides on the coast. Meanwhile the Indiana, the New York, and other ships repeated the dose from the rear. The Iowa turned and came back to the Wampatuck's boat and again led the column the forts replying fiercely and concentrating on the Detroit, which was about seven hundred yards away, from the batteries on the eastward arm of the harbor. Thrice the column passed from the entrance of the harbor to the extreme eastward battery.

LIKE TARGET PRACTICE.

Utter indifference was shown for the enemy's fire. The wounded were quickly attended, the blood was washed away and everything proceeded like target practice.

At 7:45 A. M. Admiral Sampson signalled "Cease firing." "Retire," was sounded on the Iowa and she heeled from the shore. The rearward was the last ship in the line and, failing to see the signal, banged away alone for about half an hour, the concert of shore guns roaring at her and the water flying high from the batteries on the eastward arm of the harbor. But she possessed a charmed life and reluctantly retired at 8:15.

As at Matanzas, the unsatisfactory condition, the smoke and the distance prevented any important conclusions being drawn. The town of San Juan must have suffered, although protected by the hills, as the high shots must have reached it. No traces of the bombardment were discernible on the forts except small fires, which were apparently extinguished before the fleet left.

SAMPSON'S REPORT.

WASHINGTON, May 12.-At 7:20 this morning the Navy Department received the following despatch from Admiral Sampson. It is dated St. Thomas, May 12th, and is as follows:

"I am satisfied with the morning's work. I could have taken San Juan; but I have no force to hold it. I only wanted to administer punishment. This has been done. I came for the Spanish fleet, and not for San Juan."

This attack lasted about three hours and resulted in much damage to the batteries and incidentally to a portion of the city adjacent to the batteries. The batteries replied to our fire but without material effect. One man was killed on board the New York, and seven slightly wounded before the fleet left.

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

FIGHTING JOE WILL LEAD THE CAVALRY

Gen. Wheeler to Head the Mounted Men in Cuba.

TAMPA, FLA., May 12.-General Joseph E. Wheeler, the old Confederate cavalry leader, recently appointed commanding major-general of volunteers, will command the United States cavalry in the Cuban army of invasion.

General Wheeler reached here to-night from Chickamauga under orders from General Miles, and reported to General Wade. He will at once take command of the cavalry, which it is expected, will be organized into a brigade to-morrow.

BAGGAGE UNPACKED.

Major E. A. Garlington will be inspector-general of cavalry. Once more have the eight thousand United States troops at Tampa and Port Tampa unpacked their baggage and settled down into the dull routine of camp life. There is apparently little doubt that it was the intention to have every man, horse, mule and pound of supplies on board ship by Sunday night, and to have the big fleet of transports on the way to Cuba by Monday. But the appearance of that

Twenty-nine transport ships now at the disposal of the War Department for the Atlantic coast are capable in the aggregate of carrying 25,000 troops and 10,000 animals. As soon as the department is prepared to start the army expedition to Cuba the vessels will be concentrated at points on the southern coast and the entire fleet will move to Cuba as a body under suitable escort of war vessels.

ORDERS COUNTERMANDED.

It was announced yesterday that the transports at New York would proceed south immediately with regiments of the New York and Massachusetts volunteers. To-day, however, the vessels were ordered not to move until further advice had been given them. These orders were issued in view of the reports from several sources that two or more Spanish war vessels had been sighted off the upper Atlantic coast. In view of the suspension of the land movement upon Cuba it was not deemed advisable to send the transports loaded with troops south at this time.

THE WINSLOW'S INJURIES.

They Are Not Serious and Can Be Remedied at Key West.

WASHINGTON, May 12.-Word came to the Navy Department during the afternoon that the injuries sustained by the Winslow were of such a nature that they could be repaired at the Key West naval station and from this, although no details were given, the Department officials inferred that the damage was not extensive. The vessel which has never had a final trial, was accepted by the government to-day.

It is the opinion of the naval officials that the bombardment of San Juan did not materially deplete Sampson's stock of ammunition. In case the fleet should require additional ammunition, it would have to be sent from Key West, where the Navy Department has a large stock in reserve.

Light Infantry Escort.

AN EXAMINATION, May 12.-Special Lieut. and Major Light Infantry will escort the Alexandria Light Infantry to the depot to-morrow at 11 A. M. on their way to Richmond.

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

For Virginia-Saturday: Fair, warm on the coast; westerly winds. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Eastern Florida-Fair weather; light northerly winds.

INVASION OF CUBA DELAYED.

Spain's Fleet Must First Be Destroyed.

ORDERS ARE ISSUED

Movement of Troops Temporarily Checked.

THE PLANS OF GEN. MILES.

He Has Postponed His Trip to the South.

THE DELAY ONLY TEMPORARY.

It Is Confidently Expected That Ad-

miral Sampson Will Seek and Find

the Spanish Fleet and That the

Result Will Be the Total De-

struction of Spain's Na-

val Power-The Gov-

ernment Secures

More Trans-

ports, 29

in All.

WASHINGTON, May 12.-Direct orders were given General Miles this morning suspending for the present the movement of the invading army upon Cuba. General Miles has, therefore, postponed his departure for the South, and it is announced authoritatively by War Department officials that it cannot be stated with definiteness when General Miles will leave.

Colonel A. L. Wagner, Chief of the Military Bureau of the Army, who is one of General Miles' staff, decided not to wait for the general, but with one of the officers of his bureau left for the South last night.

TGO GREAT A RISK.

The suspension of the movement of the invading army upon Cuba was induced by the proximity of the Spanish Cape Verde squadron to Cuban waters. It is deemed by the department officials to be the part of wisdom not to risk the safety of the Cuban soil until the landing can be effected under the protection of a stronger fleet than is now available for the purposes of mere protection.

The fact that the army movement has been postponed is indirect evidence that a decisive naval battle is expected to occur within a few days. It is not doubted that the squadron under the command of Admiral Sampson will immediately seek an engagement with the Spanish fleet, and it is with the idea of awaiting the result of that conflict that the orders for the movement of the land forces are temporarily held in abeyance.

TWO MORE TIA REPORTS.

Assistant Secretary of War Meiklejohn announced to-day that the Department acquired yesterday two additional vessels for transport purposes. They are the Stillwater and Breakwater, both of New Orleans. In common with the other twenty-seven vessels of the transport fleet, they are fine sea-going ships. No changes have been taken by the Department in securing transport vessels. Secretary Meiklejohn says that every one of the vessels in the transport fleet is capable of carrying 1,000 troops and 500 animals.

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